



Dear Planning Commissioners,

As the President and CEO of LPKNC, whose mission is to bring together residents, organizations, and agencies that are committed to fostering and maintaining vital drug-free communities, I am submitting this letter requesting you recommend a setback of 2000 ft. from schools, licensed child care/day care centers, parks, libraries, drug treatment facilities, churches, and other uses where youth congregate.

For 9 years LPKNC has worked diligently with residents, organizations, agencies, and youth to create positive change in our community, especially for our children, our future. Our neighborhoods throughout Pima County are currently experiencing high stress, and many other challenges especially due to Covid-19. Even prior to Covid-19 some youth and adults find unhealthy coping mechanisms to deal with the stressors in their lives. Our youth in our city do not need marijuana. Dispensaries and their cultivation sites need to be as far away as possible from places that youth gather.

According to the 2020 Arizona Youth Survey (AYS) which was administered in Pima County, youth in 8th, 10th, and 12th grade combined found on average that 20% used marijuana in the last 30 days. This is second to alcohol which was at 28.6%.

The problem with having dispensaries and cultivation sites near where youth gather is that they may walk or drive to school, or to get to their library, or parks and recreation center. Along the way they will have to see the signage, banners, and other marketing associated with the cannabis business that should not be geared toward youth, but are. Thereby slowly but surely creating a curiosity by youth of why are people going there? Why can't I have it? I want it. I'll find a way to have it. The reason we do not want our youth to have marijuana is because marijuana does harm the developing brain, especially those who are frequent marijuana users.

Finally, another reason we need dispensaries and cultivation sites as far away from places that youth gather is because of the odor. Most cannabis establishments will have an odor which can be pungent, offensive, and distracting to some. Schools, parks and playgrounds where kids play do not need to be inundated with that smell as they play or study.

We believe that a 2000 ft setback is not much to ask for the safety of our youth in our community and ask that this be the recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

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President/CEO
LPKNC



LPKNC
Community in Action